



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services

Joint Hearing of the House Committees on Public Health and Human Services

Charge 6: Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse

Hank Whitman

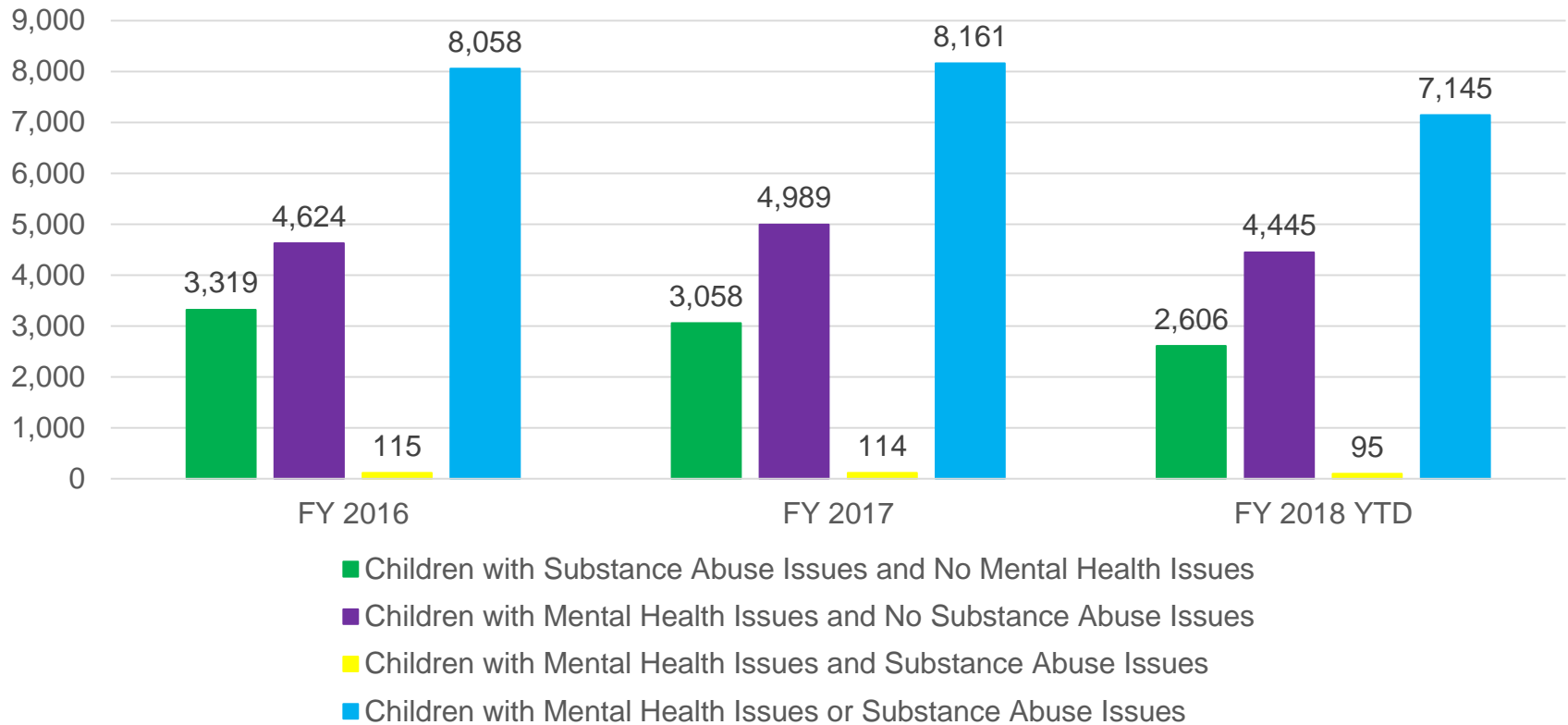
Commissioner, Department of Family and Protective Services

August 9, 2018



Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children

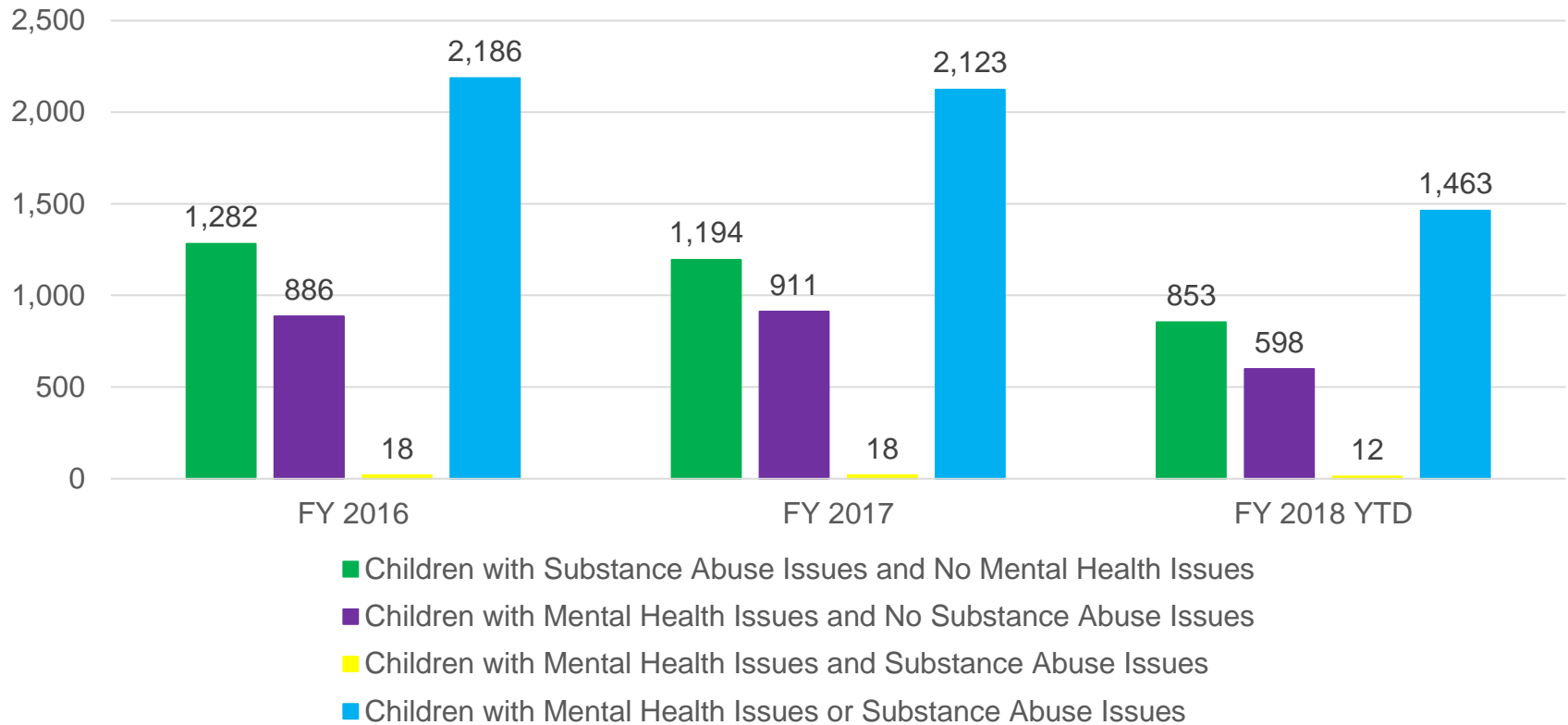
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children involved in Investigations or Alternative Response





Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children

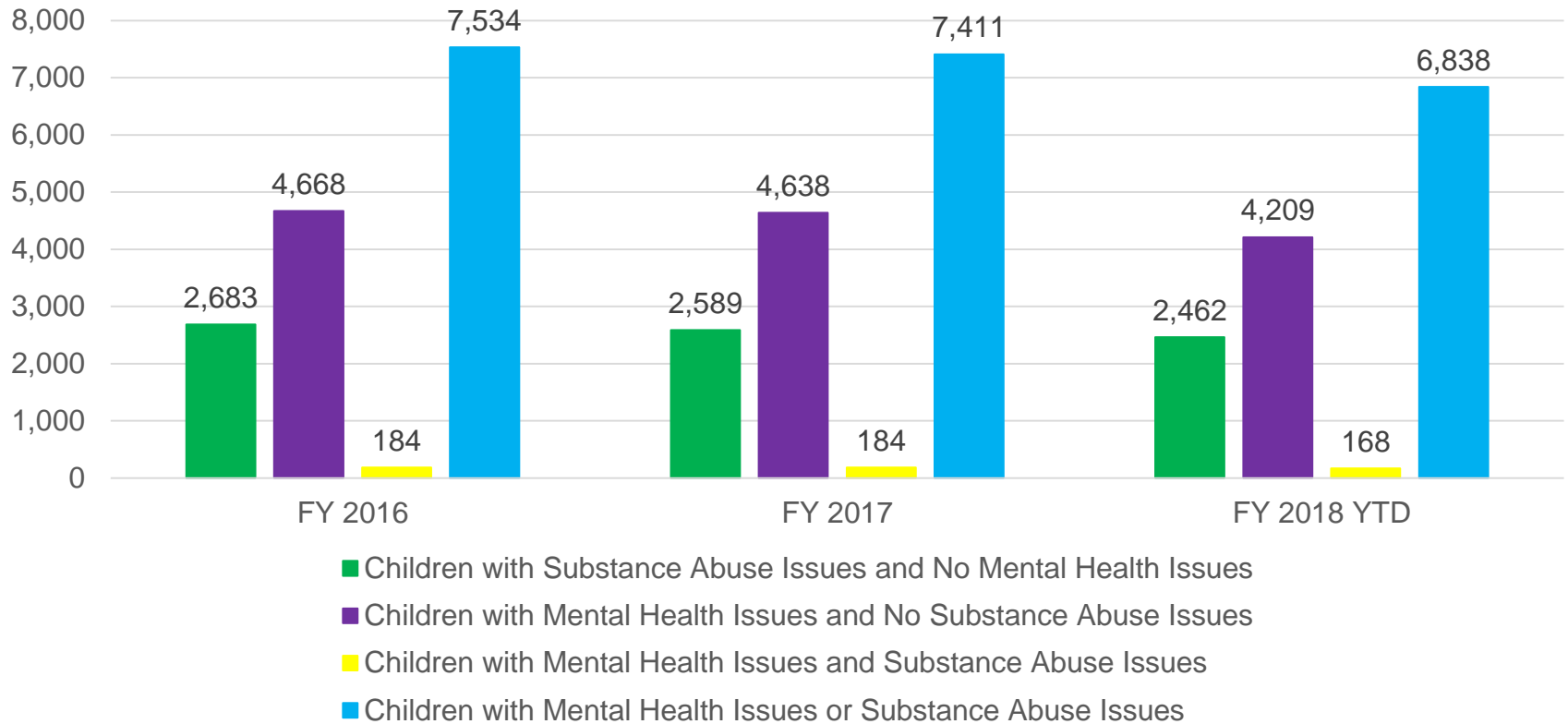
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children involved in Family-Based Safety Services





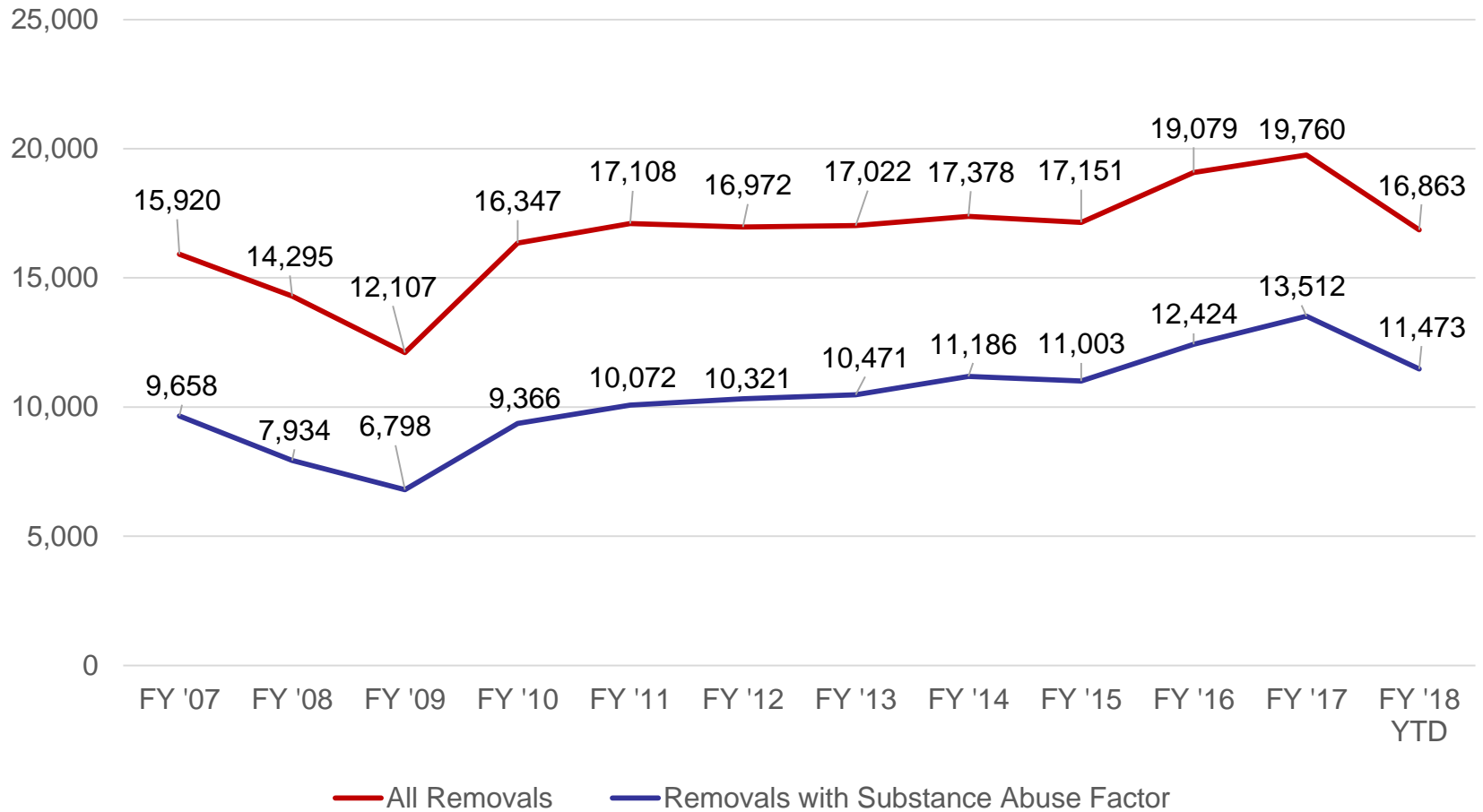
Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children

Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Children involved in Conservatorship





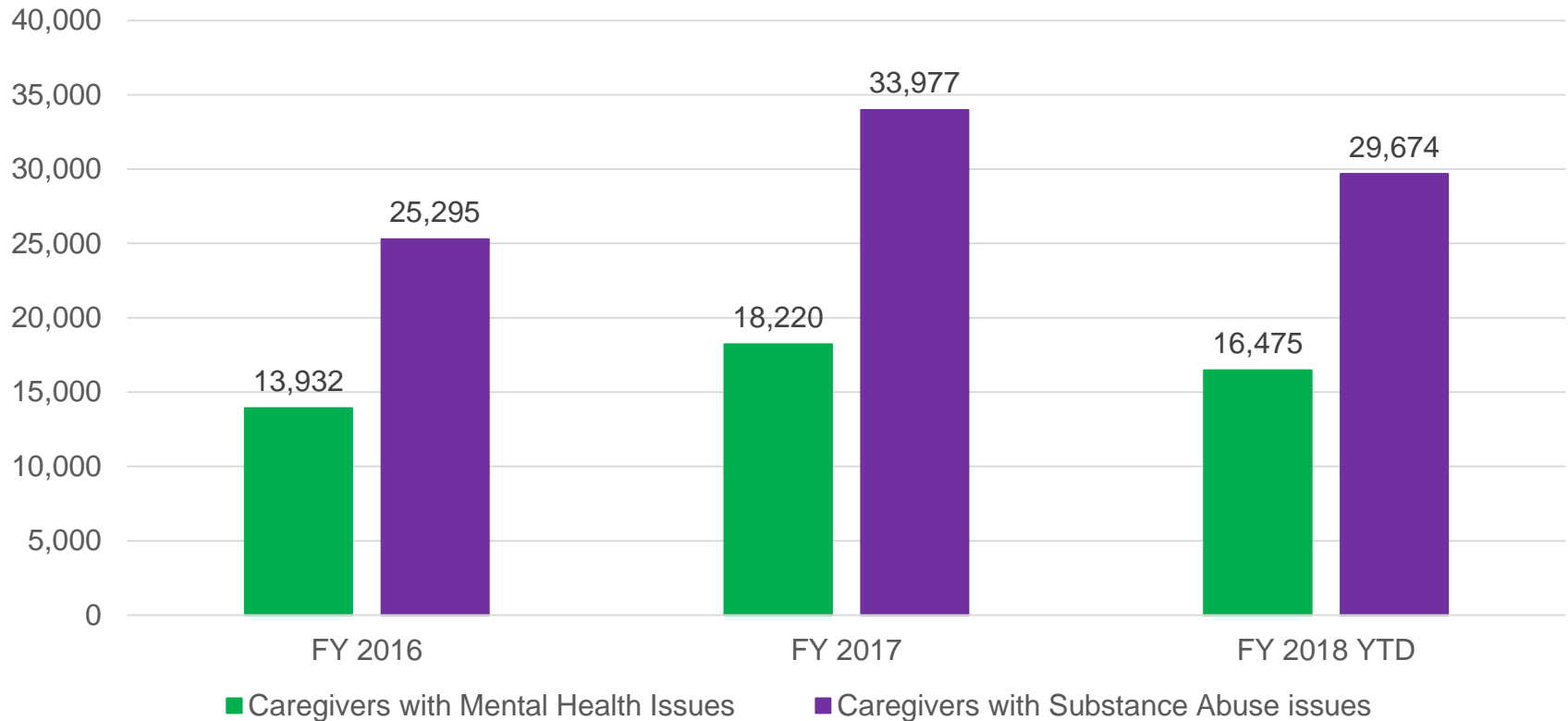
Substance Abuse as a Factor in Removals





Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers

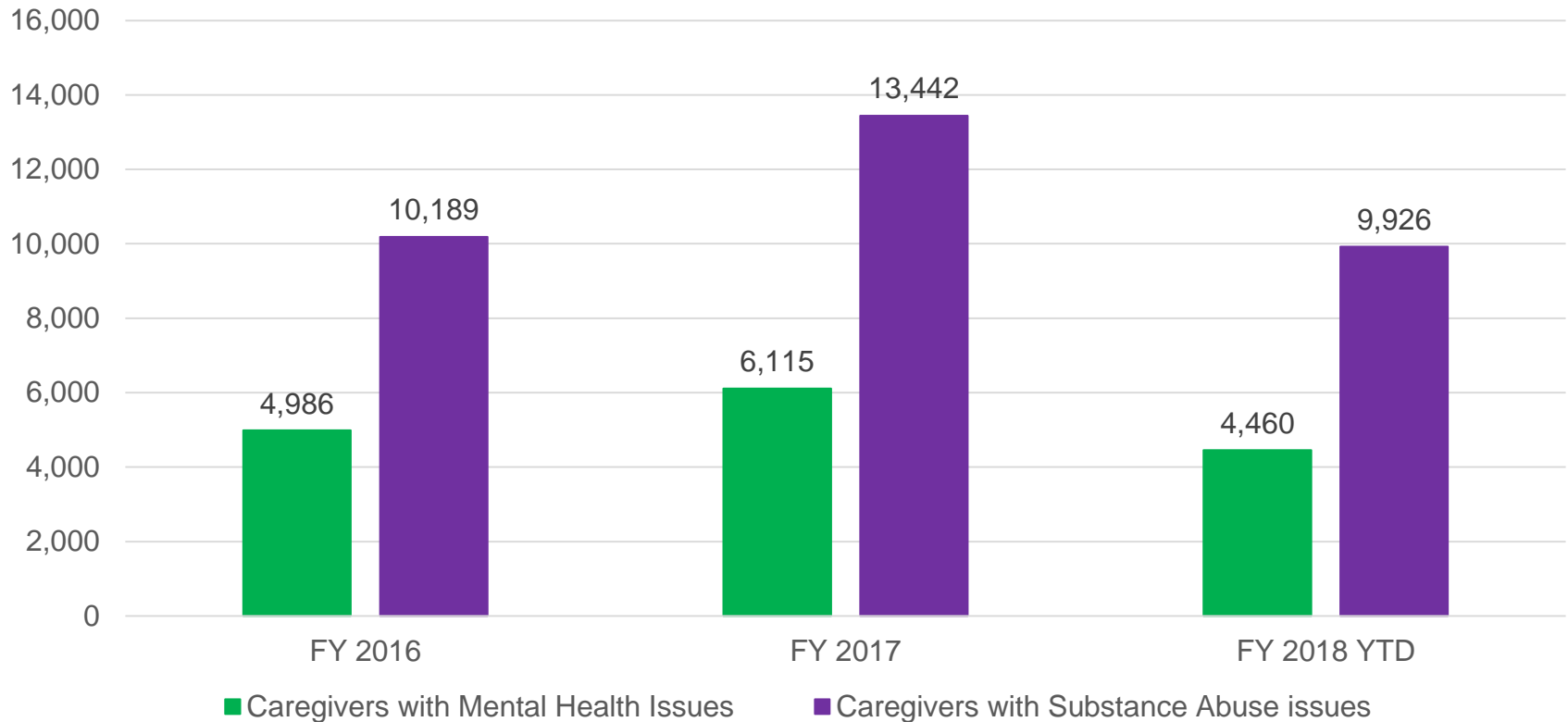
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers involved in Investigations or Alternative Response





Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers

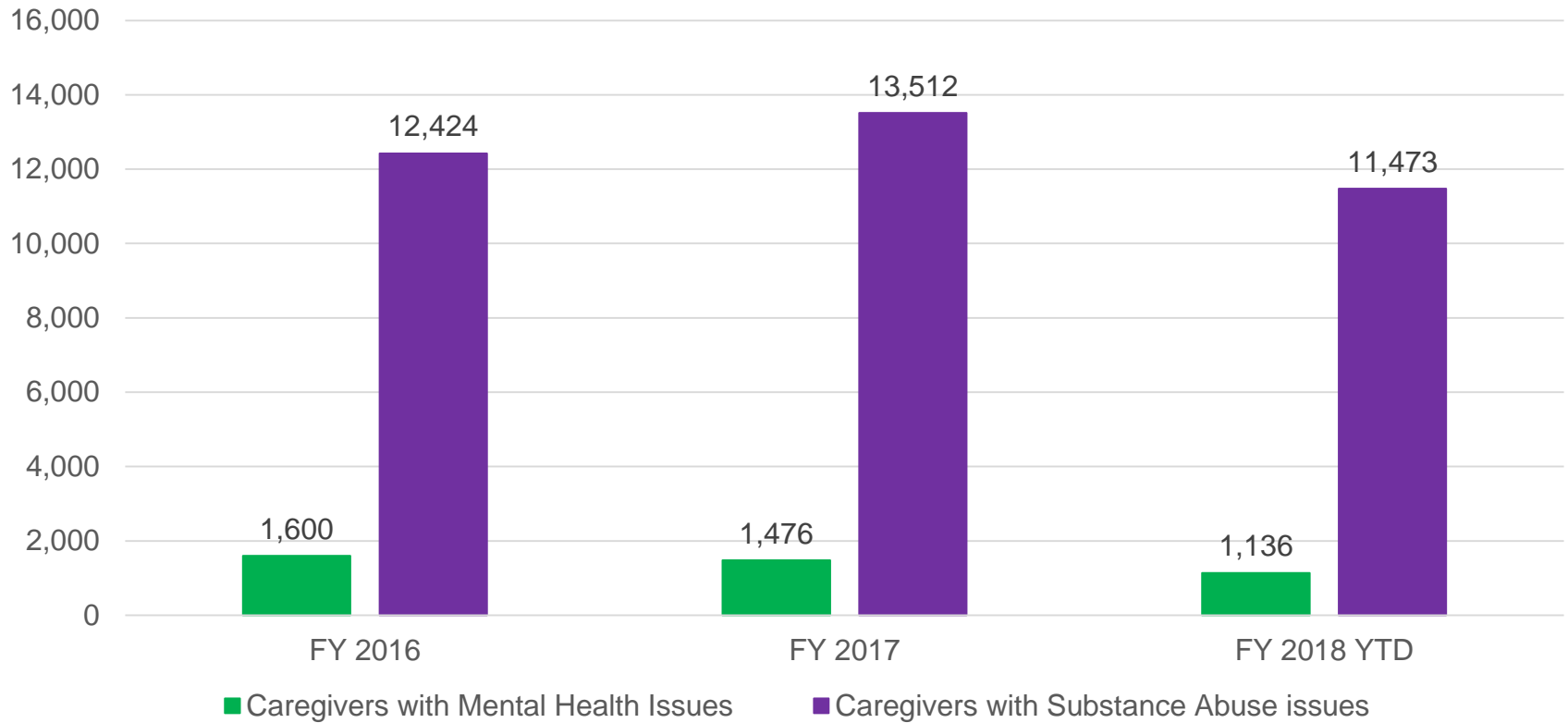
Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers involved in Family-Based Safety Services



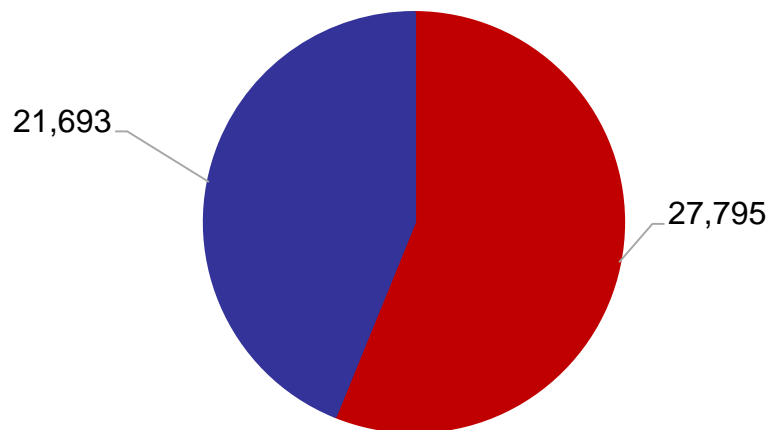


Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers

Prevalence of Mental Illness and Substance Abuse in Caregivers involved in Conservatorship (Removals)



Of 52,180 unique children enrolled in STAR Health in FY 17, 53% had a mental illness or substance use disorder.



- Total Unique STAR Health Enrollees with Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder FY 2017
- Total Unique STAR Health Enrollees without Mental Illness or Substance Use Disorder FY 2017

Substance Abuse as a Factor in Fatalities

Risk factors such as substance abuse, mental health concerns, and domestic violence were common factors in confirmed child abuse and neglect fatalities:

- In FY 17, **52%** of fatalities caused by abuse or neglect involved a parent or caregiver actively using a substance and/or under the influence of one or more substances that affected their ability to care for the child.
- Almost **23%** of fatalities caused by abuse or neglect involved a parent or caregiver with reported or confirmed mental health concerns.
- Active domestic violence concerns were identified in **17%** of fatalities caused by abuse or neglect, but **40%** of these fatalities had a history of domestic violence.

Efforts for Family Preservation

- FBSS Pilot (SB 11)
 - Performance based contract to provide evidence based or promising practices case management services to reduce recidivism and removals of children.
 - Coordination with local OSAR, LMHA and local treatment providers, similar to CPS Legacy.
 - Working to establish telemedicine program to serve rural families
 - Post-Adopt/Post-Permanency Support
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Increasing Capacity for High-Needs Kids

- Community Based Care Expansion (SB 11)
- Therapeutic Foster Care Program
- Intense Plus Rate
- Temporary Emergency Placements Program
- Least Restrictive Placements (HB 1542)

Barriers to Treatment for Parents

Access to substance abuse treatment

- Availability/Location of services
- Waiting lists/Insurance coverage

Parent-Specific Challenges

- Employment challenges
- Child-care availability/frequency

Solutions & Alternatives

- County-led initiatives like Bexar County and other specialty courts to sustain families through innovative treatment and judicial solutions
 - Improved collaboration between agencies that serve similar populations
 - Education of Judiciary and stakeholders on the challenges of substance abuse and use
 - Enhanced services to support parent's sobriety when children are returned home
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